AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a brake ~~component~~ shoe adapted for use in a vehicle brake assembly having a disc brake rotor comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a new ~~brake component selected from the group consisting of a brake shoe and a brake rotor, the~~ brake shoe including a friction lining having an outer surface having surface irregularities ~~and the brake rotor including an inner cylindrical braking surface having surface irregularities~~;

(b) applying a liquid binder material to at least a portion of ~~one of~~ the outer surface of the friction lining of the brake shoe ~~and the inner cylindrical braking surface of the brake rotor~~; and

(c) applying a coating material having frictional increasing properties to at least a portion of ~~one of~~ the outer surface of the friction lining of the brake shoe ~~and the inner cylindrical braking surface of the brake rotor~~ to at least partially fill in the surface irregularities thereof and thereby increase a contact area between the outer surface of the friction lining and ~~the~~ an inner cylindrical braking surface of the brake rotor to thereby increase the green static coefficient of friction between the new brake shoe and brake rotor before any burnishing or other contact/wear of the brake shoe and the brake rotor has occurred.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein step (b) is performed prior to step (c).

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein step (b) and step (c) are performed simultaneously by mixing together the liquid binder and the coating material to form a slurry or paste mixture.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3 wherein the mixture is applied by a process selected from the group consisting of spraying, dipping, blotting, brushing, ink-padding and rolling.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the liquid binder is selected from the group consisting of a liquid phenolic resin and a silicate binder.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5 wherein water is added to the liquid binder.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the coating material is selected from the group consisting of iron oxide powder (Fe_2O_3); aluminum oxide powder (Al_2O_3); zircon powder; and calcium oxide powder (C_aCO_3).

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the liquid binder is a silicate binder and the coating material is iron oxide powder.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 8 wherein a concentration ratio by weight of iron oxide to silicate is in the range from about 8 to 1 to about 4 to 1.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the layer of coating material has a generally uniform thickness in the range from about 0.0001 to about 0.01 inches.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A brake shoe produced according to the method of Claim 1.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A brake ~~component~~ shoe adapted for use in a vehicle brake assembly having a brake rotor comprising:

a new brake ~~component selected from the group consisting of a brake shoe and a brake rotor, the brake~~ shoe including a friction lining having an outer surface having surface irregularities ~~and the brake rotor including an inner cylindrical braking surface having surface irregularities~~, said surface[[s]] of said brake ~~components~~ shoe disposed adjacent ~~one another~~ and adapted to frictionally engage a surface of said brake rotor ~~one another~~ when the brake assembly is actuated, wherein said brake ~~component~~ shoe surface having said surface irregularities prevents complete contact between said adjacent surfaces of said brake ~~components~~ shoe and brake rotor prior to any burnishing or other contact or wear of components, whereby a green static coefficient of friction between said adjacent surfaces of said brake ~~components~~ shoe and brake rotor is increased by applying a coating material having frictional increasing properties to at least a portion of said surface of ~~one of~~ said brake ~~components~~ shoe whereby said coating material is operative to at least partially fills in at least some of said surface irregularities so as to increase a contact area between said surfaces of said brake ~~components~~ shoe and brake rotor thereby increasing the green static coefficient of friction between said surfaces of said brake ~~components~~ shoe and brake rotor when the brake assembly is actuated.

17. (Original) The brake component according to Claim 16 wherein said coating material includes a liquid binder material and a coating material.

18. (Original) The brake component according to Claim 17 wherein said liquid binder material is selected from the group consisting of a liquid phenolic resin and a silicate binder and said coating material is selected from the group consisting of iron oxide powder (Fe_2O_3); aluminum oxide powder (Al_2O_3); zircon powder; and calcium oxide powder (C_aCO_3).

19. (Original) The brake component according to Claim 18 wherein said liquid binder material is a silicate binder and said coating material is iron oxide powder.

20. (Original) The brake component according to Claim 19 wherein a concentration ratio by weight of iron oxide to silicate is in the range from about 8 to 1 to about 4 to 1.

21. (Original) The brake component according to Claim 16 wherein said coating material has a generally uniform thickness in the range from about 0.0001 to about 0.01 inches.

22. (Currently Amended) A drum-in-hat disc brake assembly including the brake ~~component~~ shoe according to Claim 16.